

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP, FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**  
**SANITARY SEWERAGE SYSTEM PROJECT, PHASE II**  
**SECTION 313, WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1992**

The US Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District, is proposing to cost share a sanitary sewerage system project with the Municipal Authority of the Township of Washington (Non-Federal Sponsor). This project is authorized under Section 313 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 as amended, which has the primary objective of providing design and construction assistance to Non-Federal interests for carrying out water-related environmental infrastructure projects in south central Pennsylvania.

The proposed Phase II project which is to be funded by the Corps of Engineers consists of the construction of approximately 30,000 linear feet of gravity sewer, approximately 189 manholes, 11 lamp holes and approximately 2,400 linear feet of force main in the Washington Heights area of Washington Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. Sewage will be conveyed to the Belle Vernon Sewage Treatment Plant for treatment. The proposed Corps of Engineers project within Washington Heights is part of a larger project to service all of Washington Township with functioning sewer facilities. The Phase I project previously funded by the Corps consisted of the design and construction of three pump stations within Washington Township and is currently under construction.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) conducted a field survey of Washington Township and determined that numerous malfunctioning on-lot septic systems are causing elevated levels of sewage pollutants within local streams. Based on these findings, the DEP requires a municipal sewerage system in order to eliminate the discharge of untreated or partially treated sewage. Currently, the untreated sewage is a threat to health and public safety. The proposed project will provide sanitary sewage service to the developed areas of Washington Heights within Washington Township and will ultimately result in improvements to the quality of ground and surface waters in the area.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Non-Federal Sponsor prepared an Environmental Assessment that evaluated impacts to environmental and cultural resources within the project area. In compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, a Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory Search was performed which resulted in no known impact to threatened or endangered species. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Pennsylvania Bureau for Historic Preservation (SHPO) was contacted. The SHPO anticipates no effect to cultural or historical resources due to the proposed project.

In addition to the proposed project, the Environmental Assessment included a "No Action" alternative, and four alternatives for servicing lesser combinations of the affected communities in Washington Township and sending sewage to either the Belle Vernon or Fayette City Sewage Treatment Plants. "No Action" is unacceptable because untreated or partially treated sewage will continue to discharge from malfunctioning on-lot systems. The alternatives which included servicing less of the affected communities within Washington Township would

not fully address the health and safety of the region and were eliminated. The proposed alternative routes sewage through the Belle Vernon sewage treatment plant (STP) and is more cost effective than treatment through the Fayette City STP.

I have reasonably determined that the construction of approximately 30,000 linear feet of gravity sewer, approximately 189 manholes, 11 lamp holes and approximately 2,400 linear feet of force main in the Washington Heights area as part of a larger project to service the Washington Township residents with modern sewer facilities will not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, as defined in the Council on Environmental Quality's current regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act. The preparation of an environmental impact statement is therefore unwarranted and the public interest will be best served by the implementation of the proposed action. This determination precedes the Corps of Engineer's final decision concerning this proposed action. A notice of availability of this Finding of No Significant Impact will be sent to interested parties and placed on the District's website (<http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil>).

13 DECEMBER 2010

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Date



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William H. Graham  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer